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Annual Report

On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1947

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

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BOROUGH OF NEWPORT, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

COUNTY HALL.

HIGH STREET,

NEWPORT, I.W.

September, 1948.

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Newport for the Year 1947.

The birth-rate increased by 1·6 per thousand of the population and the death-rate increased by 0·3 per thousand. The infantile mortality rate decreased by 6·8 per thousand and was less than the rate for England and Wales generally by 6·7.

There was a marked decrease in the number of Infectious Disease Notifications, the figure being 133 compared with 361 the previous year, in spite of the largest outbreak of Infantile Paralysis to occur in the Island. Two deaths from Diphtheria occurred in children who had not been immunised.

Much ill health and unhappiness is still caused by the shortage of houses. The problem is being energetically tackled by the Council who are to be congratulated upon their efforts to meet the needs of the people in the Borough.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P.
(LOND.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat & Food Inspector—

A. F. HART, CERT. R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

R. A. HALLETT, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...					20,310
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) per						
rate books	...	...	...	...	...	4,598
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£134,671
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...					£554 14s. 11d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident						
population	...	...	...	...	...	19·2
Still Birth—Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births						20·1
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population						11·6
Death from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and						
childbirth :—						
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	...					Nil.
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All infants per 1000 live births	...	...				33·3
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births						32·5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live						
births	...	...	...	...	...	45·2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...				38
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...				Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...				Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...					2

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 390 of which 369 were legitimate and 21 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 19·2 per 1000 living ; the birth rate for England and Wales being 20·5.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 236 which gives a death rate of 11·6 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 12·0.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 33·3 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 41·0.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year 1947 there was no interruption of the water supply in Newport due to the steady supply maintained from the bore holes in the orchard at Carisbrooke. Although economy in the use of water by the public was urged, it was not found necessary to cut off the supply at night during the summer. The water from all sources is chlorinated and monthly samples of the treated water showed no evidence of harmful pollution. Quarterly samples of the raw waters submitted for bacteriological examination showed no evidence of pollution. Chemical analysis of the main supply yielded a satisfactory report.

5010 dwelling houses, with an estimated population of 19,612, are supplied with water from the Corporation water mains. None are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

SWIMMING POOL.

Bacteriological control of the water in the swimming pool continued satisfactorily throughout the year. As a precautionary measure for the control of the disease, the swimming pool was closed during the outbreak of infantile paralysis.

ICE CREAM.

Close supervision of ice cream production is carried out and frequent analyses of the products for sale are made, to ensure that the highest standard of purity is maintained.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No fresh developments during the year.

HOUSING.

During the year 210 houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts and structural defects of some kind were found in all cases.

66 Statutory Notices were issued under the above Acts and of these 37 have been complied with, 35 by the Owners and 2 by the Council in default of the owners.

GENERAL HEALTH MATTERS.

In addition to the 210 houses inspected, 262 other visits were made under the Public Health Acts, 508 visits to farms and dairies, bakehouses, slaughterhouses, food shops and stores under the Food and Drugs Act, and 217 miscellaneous visits and inspections.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Following is the report in respect of matters under Part I and Part VIII of the Act which are administered by the Council :—

PART I OF THE ACT. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	35	21	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	131	51	22	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	47	12	—	—
TOTAL	213	84	22	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	6	6	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive	10	10	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	3	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	22	22	—	3	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	5	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	—	—	—	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are two Government Slaughterhouses in the Borough and apart from the slaughtering carried out at the Bacon Factory at Wroxall, all the animals slaughtered in the Island are killed in this Borough, thus the work of the Department in this connection is very considerable.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected ...	1628	6039	4209	1887
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.				
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	3	1	2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	899	18	494	16
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. ...	55·4	·31	11·78	·95
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY				
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	44	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	471	2	4	46
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ...	31·3	·033	·095	2·59
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Total meat condemned	21	7	0	3
Other Foodstuffs ...	4	0	0	17
Total ...	25	7	0	20

In addition 2,086 tins of various foodstuffs were destroyed.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, 133, was considerably less than in 1946 (361).

Scarlet Fever accounted for only 8 but Measles for 66. There were 14 notifications of Diphtheria. The two deaths from diphtheria occurred in children who had not been immunised.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued throughout the year. Every effort is made to persuade parents to take advantage of this universally acknowledged protective measure against one of the most killing diseases of childhood. All children at the age of 6 months are offered protection and a further "boosting" dose is offered on entry into the infants' schools.

Of the children under 5, 41.3% are immunised and of children of school age, 87.0% are immunised.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

During the year Infantile Paralysis occurred on a scale hitherto unknown in the Island as indeed it did throughout the British Isles. Forty-six confirmed cases being hospitalized. Fortunately the number of cases in the Borough was limited to four but one of these was of the severest type, necessitating prolonged treatment in the Iron Lung. The local medical practitioners were extremely alert to the possibility of the disease and all suspicious cases were the subjects of immediate consultation, so that there was no delay in getting expert advice and treatment.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	8	3	—
Diphtheria ...	14	14	2
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Other diseases gen- erally notifiable			
<i>Erysipelas</i> ...	4	—	—
<i>Encephalitis</i> <i>Lethargica</i> ...	—	—	—
<i>Cerebro Spinal</i> <i>Meningitis</i> ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	31	1	—
Measles ...	66	4	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	4	—
TOTALS	133	28	2

NOTE.—Figures for non-civilians are not included.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Malaria.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles.
Under 1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	1
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	4
2 „ „ 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	9
3 „ „ 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	4
4 „ „ 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	9
5 „ „ 10	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	33
10 „ „ 15	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
15 „ „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „ 35	1	9	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
35 „ „ 45	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
45 „ „ 65	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	14	3	3	4	—	—	—	4	—	31	—	66

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1947.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " 5	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5 " 10	4	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 " 15	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
20 " 25	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " 35	11	7	3	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
35 " 45	5	4	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
45 " 55	7	4	3	—	—	5	3	2	—	—
55 " 65	2	1	1	—	—	3	3	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals	37*	19	11	3	4	14†	8	5	—	1

*Included in this total are nine patients who have been transferred from the mainland, one old case left Island and returned, and two cases in which the Death Return gave the first information.

†Includes two cases in which the Death Returns gave the first information, four cases who died from another disease, and one case notified as "pulmonary".

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS

Mumps	...	...	6	Influenza	...	...	4
Chicken Pox	...	...	162	Influenza1 colds	...	...	1
German Measles	...	...	1	Jaundice	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	—				—
Ringworm	...	...	—				176
Impetigo	...	...	2				—